

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 7, 9 and 10 are pending in the present Reissue Application. Note that the changes to the claims are shown with respect to the original patent claims as required under 37 CFR 1.173(g). Note also that the claim changes have been submitted by employing underlining for insertions and bracketing for deletions as required under 37 CFR 1.173(d).

Allowable Claims

Claims 7 and 12 were indicated as being allowable in the Final Office Action of February 8, 2006. Claim 12 has been incorporated into claim 1, and correspondingly cancelled. Since all of the presently pending claims ultimately depend from claim 1, all of the present claims have been placed into allowable form.

Request for Entry of Claim Amendments

It is respectfully submitted that the above-noted incorporation of claim 12 into claim 1 raises no new significant issues and essentially responds to a form requirement in that the indicated allowable subject matter has been inserted into all of the pending claims pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 (b) (1). In addition, the claims have been placed into better form for consideration on appeal, should an appeal be necessary pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116 (b) (2). Consequently, it is requested that the claim changes be entered of record and fully considered by the Patent Examiner.

Removal of Basis for Rejections under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9-11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urano '910 (USP 5,695,910) in view of Niki '281 (USP 5,744,281) and Zampini '379 (USP 6,858,379).

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Urano '910 in view of Niki '281 and Zampini '379, and further in view of Huang '078 (USP 5,712,078) and Renner '605 (USP 4,371,605).

The bases for both of the above-noted rejections have been removed upon the incorporation of allowable claim 12 into claim 1. Consequently, it is requested that these rejections be withdrawn.

Interview with Examiner

The Patent Examiner is respectfully thanked for conducting a Personal Interview on June 14, 2006 with applicant's representative. The primary issue discussed at the Interview was whether one of the cited references qualified as "prior art". Upon the incorporation of allowable claim 12 into claim 1, as noted above, this issue has been rendered moot.

It is submitted for the reasons above that the present claims define patentable subject matter such that this application should now be placed in condition for allowance.

If any questions arise in the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, Andrew D. Meikle (Reg. No. 32,868), in the Washington Metropolitan Area at the phone number listed below.

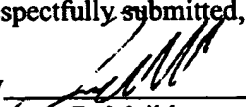
Application No. 10/664,355
Amendment dated July 10, 2006
After Final Office Action of May 8, 2006

Docket No.: 2185-0698P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Andrew D. Meikle
Registration No.: 32,868
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant